

REMARKS

The Official Action mailed March 28, 2006, has been received and its contents carefully noted. This response is filed within three months of the mailing date of the Official Action and therefore is believed to be timely without extension of time. Accordingly, the Applicant respectfully submits that this response is being timely filed.

The Applicant notes with appreciation the consideration of the Information Disclosure Statements filed on September 24, 2003; November 4, 2004; August 12, 2005; and November 1, 2005.

A further Information Disclosure Statement is submitted herewith and consideration of this Information Disclosure Statement is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-25 were pending in the present application prior to the above amendment. Claims 1-3, 5, 11, 12, 14, 15, 17 and 22-25 have been amended to better recite the features of the present invention, and new dependent claims 26-32 have been added to recite additional protection to which the Applicant is entitled. The Applicant notes with appreciation the allowance of claims 5-25 (page 5, Paper No. 032306). Accordingly, claims 1-32 are now pending in the present application, of which claims 1, 5, 11, 14, 17 and 22-25 are independent. For the reasons set forth in detail below, all claims are believed to be in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration is requested.

The Official Action provisionally rejects claims 1-4 under the doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting over claims 1-5 of copending Application Serial No. 10/386,229. Although the Official Action indicates that claim 5 is rejected, it is noted that Box 5 of the Office Action Summary indicates that claims 5-25 are allowed and Box 6 indicates that claims 1-4 are rejected. Also, the statement of allowed claims at page 5 of the Official Action indicates that claims 5-25 are allowed. Therefore, it is believed that only claims 1-4 stand rejected, and the Official Action appears to include a typographical error at page 2. Clarification of the status of claims is respectfully requested. The Applicant respectfully requests that the double patenting rejections be

held in abeyance until an indication of allowable subject matter is made in either the present application or the copending application. At such time, the Applicant will respond to any remaining double patenting rejections.

Paragraph 4 of the Official Action rejects claims 1-4 as anticipated by U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0210219 to Osame. The Applicant respectfully submits that an anticipation rejection cannot be maintained against the independent claims of the present application, as amended.

As stated in MPEP § 2131, to establish an anticipation rejection, each and every element as set forth in the claim must be described either expressly or inherently in a single prior art reference. Verdegaal Bros. v. Union Oil Co. of California, 814 F.2d 628, 631, 2 USPQ2d 1051, 1053 (Fed. Cir. 1987).

Independent claim 1 has been amended to recite first to sixth transistors, where a first signal is inputted to a source of the third transistor, and a second signal is inputted to a source of the fifth transistor, which is supported in the specification, for example, by Embodiment Modes 1 and 7 and Figures 2A, 2B, 3A, 3B, 12A and 12B.

Osame appears to disclose first to sixth transistors (Figure 1, reproduced below)

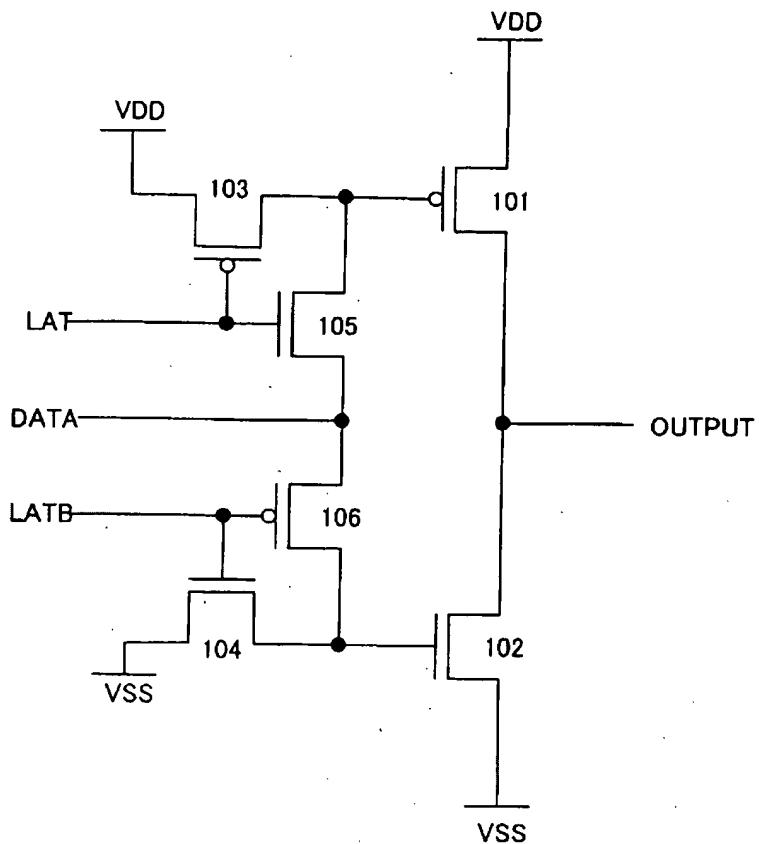


Fig. 1

However, a source of the third transistor 105 and a source of the fifth transistor 106 are connected to each other and the same signal (DATA) is inputted to transistors 105 and 106 (see paragraph [0051]). Therefore, Osame does not teach first to sixth transistors, where a first signal is inputted to a source of the third transistor, and a second signal is inputted to a source of the fifth transistor, either explicitly or inherently.

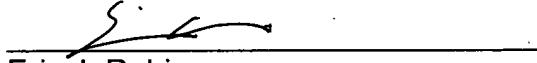
Since Osame does not teach all the elements of the independent claims, either explicitly or inherently, an anticipation rejection cannot be maintained. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102 are in order and respectfully requested.

Claims 5, 11, 12, 14, 15, 17 and 22-25 have been amended to correct minor informalities therein and to better describe the present invention. The amendments are not believed to affect the allowability of the claims.

New dependent claims 26-32 have been added to recite additional protection to which the Applicant is entitled. For the reasons stated above and already of record, the Applicant respectfully submits that new claims 26-32 are in condition for allowance.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable to place this application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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